Interp - Long

1. **Interpretation** – Living wage laws are city enacted wage policies creating a wage floor for businesses in contract with the city and/or receiving assistance from the city and/or city employees. CRA[[1]](#footnote-1) 2011:

The wage laws described in this document are “living wage” laws. In the academic literature, living wage laws are differentiated from two other types of mandated wage levels – “minimum wages” and “prevailing wages.” It is important to understand the difference, in part to help elucidate the policy that the larger report studies. The best-known wage floors are minimum wages, which impose quite low wage floors (the federal minimum is currently $7.25 per hour) on virtually all workers. In contrast, living wage laws are a relatively new policy innovation, with the first living wage law passed in Baltimore in 1994. Living wage laws have three central features. First, they typically impose a wage floor that is higher – and often much higher – than traditional federal and state minimum wages. Second, coverage by living wage ordinances is generally quite narrow, but also varies across cities. Most commonly, cities impose wage floors only on companies under contract with the city (often including non-profits). Estimates of the share of workers covered by “contractor-only” living wage laws in cities with living wage laws hover around 1%.109 Other cities also impose the wage floor on companies receiving business assistance from the city, almost always in addition to coverage of city contractors. These “business assistance laws” cover firms receiving financial assistance, tax abatements, grants, low interest loans, and many other forms of government assistance from cities. These “business assistance” living wage laws are most relevant to the case of the proposed law for New York City. Finally, a handful of cities require that city employees or employees of municipal leaseholders be paid the mandated living wage. The research project studies living wage laws – both estimating the effects of these laws in cities other than (and including) New York, and focusing on the proposed living wage law (Proposal 251) which would establish a wage floor of $10 per hour, or $11.50 if health insurance is not provided.110 The proposed living wage law would turn New York City’s current contractor-only living wage laws into a broader business assistance living wage law, by covering all firms that receive any financial assistance for economic development from the city, and – importantly – extending also to subsequent tenants of any projects developed by such firms.111 Although only new recipients of assistance would be covered, eventually coverage would become quite extensive, and the effects of this coverage in the retail sector could conceivably become significant

1. **Violation** – The living wage and minimum wage are distinct policies. [*CX & AC ev prove]* that the aff isn’t topical. (interp – violation 21)
2. **Standards**

**A point is Field context** – My interp is most accurate and best reflects the topic lit:

1. My evidence compares between types of wage floor policies, showing that it accounts for the entirety of the topic literature 5 seconds
2. My interp it is the result of a panel of leading scholars in labor economics. CRA 2[[2]](#footnote-2)

For the project, CRA enlisted leading scholars in the fields of labor and real estate economics. The team responsible for the research included CRA Vice Presidents Dr. Marsha Courchane and Dr. Matthew Thompson, Dr. David Neumark (Professor, University of California-Irvine), Dr. Timothy Riddiough (Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Dr. Anthony Yezer (Professor, George Washington University). Dr. Neumark is a leading researcher in labor economics and has done some of the pioneering work on the labor market and poverty impacts of living wage laws. Dr. Riddiough is a past Chair of the Real Estate and Urban Land Economics department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the incoming President of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association. Dr. Yezer is the Director of the Center for Economic Research at George Washington University and is one of the leading researchers in regional and urban economics. The team also solicited the participation of Dr. Daniel Hamermesh (Professor, University of Texas-Austin) to review the labor economics part of the report. Dr. Hamermesh is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a past President of the Society of Labor Economists. He authored Labor Demand, The Economics of Work and Pay, and a wide array of articles in labor economics. Dr. Riddiough, in addition to consulting throughout the process, also acts as reviewer of the final report, with an emphasis on the real estate section.

Their credentials are proven by New York City hiring them to analyze the effects of living wages. Finally, this is all especially significant because it proves my interp is the ***consensus*** definition by leading scholars and policymakers. (23)

1. My interpretation aligns with usage by labor activists – Martin 01 [[3]](#footnote-3)

The demand for a “living wage” is not new; English-speaking labor movements have used the term at least since the nineteenth century (see Glickman 1997). Currently, labor and community activists use it to refer to a narrow set of legislative strategies that are best understood by comparing them to minimum wage legislation, on one hand, and prevailing wage legislation, on the other. Minimum wage laws establish a standard for wages that applies to all employers within a specified jurisdiction and that is not indexed to market wages. Prevailing wage laws apply only to employers who hold public contracts or receive some form of public subsidy, and they typically require employers to pay the wage that “prevails” in a given market rather than any absolute minimum. Living wage policies share characteristics of both: Like a minimum wage law, they set an absolute minimum standard, but like a prevailing wage law, they apply only to employers who hold public contracts or receive public monies (see Pollin and Luce 1998, chap. 2). There are important differences among living wage policies in the wage level, mandated benefits, and exact scope of coverage (Spain andWiley 1998), but all of them aim explicitly to raise workers out of poverty. Furthermore, with the exception of policies passed by the states of Maryland and Minnesota, all living wage policies at the time of this writing have been passed by local governments (including municipalities, counties, and public authorities).1

This also shows that my interpretation is static within academic lit – Martin & CRA were published 10 years apart. (14)

Field context key to fairness and education because it determines what the terms in the resolution mean, and thus divides relevant ground and literature. *Better i/l (without defining things in terms of field context x*)(3)

And Semantic justifications like field context have logical priority to pragmatics. A pragmatic approach could say “I’ll give you a million dollars if bachelors are married.” Even though you want the money, the pragmatic approach only offers a reason to want the statement to be true, not an actual reason for it to be true.(7)

**B subpoint is resolvability** – Your interp causes conflation on the empirics debate – living and minimum wage lit is distinct and needs to be treated separately. Neumark and Adams 03:[[4]](#footnote-4)

Living wage ordinances mandate wage floors that are typically much higher than the wage floors set by state and federal minimum wage legislation. These ordinances are frequently tied to the federal government’s definition of poverty. While traditional minimum wage legislation is nearly universal in coverage, living wages apply to a subset of firms. Only businesses under contract to provide services to the city and, in some cases, firms receiving assistance from the city for the purpose of economic development or job creation, or city employees, are subject to the requirements of these ordinances. Thus, theoretical predictions of the effects of traditional minimum wage laws and the extensive empirical literature that tests these predictions can only serve as a rough guide to studying the effects of living wages. Their unique features require separate empirical examination.

This equivocation distorts judges’ ability to know what evidence is actually discussing the aff advocacy. This is verified by rounds on the topic – people read both minimum and living wage literature without acknowledging that the evidence links back to different advocacies. Distortions of resolvability skew judge evaluation and proliferate misunderstandings, so upholding resolvability it is crucial to a fair and educational round. (24)

1. Voter – fairness is the voter because debate is a competitive activity based on skills and wins and losses. And semantical considerations come first under T to prevent frivolous theory debate because we can always argue about marginal benefits of one interpretation, but there is only one true way to interpret the meaning of the resolution. (whole 1:46) (voter 8)

removed cards

Lammam[[5]](#footnote-5) explains

Living wage laws are similar to minimum wage legislation. Both mandate by law that workers be paid a certain wage rate. However, living wage laws differ by their coverage (covering a much smaller group of workers) and by their amount (requiring a much higher wage). At $19.62 per hour, New Westminster’s living wage is nearly double the provincial minimum wage of $10.25 and much higher than the rate in American cities. The explicit principle underlying living wages is to ensure full-time workers and their families meet a predetermined living standard promoted by activists. While the specific definition and coverage of living wage laws vary by US municipality, the ordinance is typically a minimum hourly wage that has to be paid to employees of private businesses that contract with the city to provide public services. Some versions have broader coverage and also apply to employees of businesses that receive financial assistance (subsidies) from the city government.

Neumark and Adams[[6]](#footnote-6) further

Living wage ordinances typically mandate that businesses under contract with a city or, in some cases, receiving assistance from a city, must pay their workers a wage sufficient to support a family financially.

AT – Only Cities

Turn – Municipal implementation is most common – means even if I am biased that’s good - Keddy[[7]](#footnote-7)

Living wages can be implemented wherever there is a governing structure that has the authority to prescribe minimum wage restrictions and can enforce compliance of the policies. Technically, in Canada, the provinces could implement living wage policies by increasing the minimum wage however, this has not yet occurred. There have been some cases where living wage policies have been implemented in universities and public school boards, as well as some airport authorities in the United States. However, the most common type of living wage is a policy implemented by municipalities that covers workers who work either directly or indirectly for the city. Living wage advocates also encourage private companies to voluntarily implement a living wage policy.

Turn – There is no bias – living wage is always by cities and that’s key to effective implementation Keddy[[8]](#footnote-8)

A living wage differs from a minimum wage in several ways. The key difference is that although living wages are often seen as a poverty reduction strategy, they are designed to offer a wage that is far above the poverty line. Minimum wages are intended to offer a wage that will raise a worker above the poverty line but, unlike a living wage, they are not intended to offer financial security and the opportunity for future stability. In Canada, the minimum wage is set by the province and is not updated on a regular cycle or indexed to inflation. They are often left at a given rate until the provincial government, usually responding to public pressure, increases the rate. Alternatively, living wages are set by the city or region and are continuously reviewed and adjusted to stay in line with inflation and the rental housing market. This allows for cost of living increases to be regularly factored into the living wage calculation. Additionally, since living wages are implemented at the municipal level, the variable costs of housing that occurs between cities can be taken into account. Unlike a minimum wage, which is a base rate set to apply to all workers, living wages target a specific segment of the workforce (Clain, 2008). Since municipalities do not have the authority to broadly set wages, living wages apply to only those who are employed by, or are on contract with the municipality. This results in a relatively small number of workers that are affected by living wage policies

AT – No Realistic to Focus on Cities

Turn – Your interp ignores political realities – the only way to get the benefits of a minimum wage debate is to first engage locally. Keddy[[9]](#footnote-9)

For many, living wages are advocated for as a step within a broader goal of an increased minimum wage. Campaigns to increase minimum wages have been occurring for far longer than the contemporary living wage campaigns. Social and anti-poverty advocates have found strong opposition and a reluctant political arena at the higher levels of government to increase minimum wages and have begun looking to lower levels of government to improve incomes of lower income households (Swarts & Vasi, 2011). As more municipalities pass living wage policies, higher wages at the low-income level will likely become more widely accepted. With this wider acceptance, the issue of raising the minimum wage could become less politically sensitive and higher levels of government may be less averse to increasing minimum wages

Turn – a variety of real world benefits to municipal focus including advocacy skills, relevance of the problem,( *Capitalism,)* etc Keddy[[10]](#footnote-10)

From the start of the contemporary living wage movement, advocates and organizers focussed their efforts at the local level for a number of reasons. First, poverty and low-wage employment are more severe and more visible at the municipal level (Martin, 2001; Pollin & Luce, 1998). Poverty is far more prevalent in cities than it is in suburban and rural areas. Due to this concentration, coupled with the downloading of services by higher levels of governments to municipalities in recent decades, social services have become largely concentrated and administered at the local level. This has also resulted in a concentration of poverty advocates within cities. Since poverty is often highly visible in cities, gaining public support for measures that are seen to be poverty reduction strategies is perhaps easier. Second, at the local level it is much easier to mobilize low wage workers and get them and other supporters to city council hearings as opposed to provincial or federal legislatures (Luce, 2004, 2012). Often it is a simple matter of transportation; low wage workers within a city can easily get to their City Hall while getting to a provincial or federal legislature can be costly and time consuming. The smaller scale of the city also makes door-to-door canvassing much easier for campaign organizers, enabling them to inform and mobilize a proportionately larger number of people than at the provincial or federal level. The greater abundance of “people power” at the local level has a better chance of combatting the power of money that any organized opposition can generate to counter the campaign (Luce, 2012). At higher levels of government, money plays a more prominent role. Informing the public at these levels is more costly because of the wider audience that needs to be reached, requiring a greater advertising budget (Luce, 2012). In addition, campaigns at these higher levels of government are likely to draw more attention from opponents that have the financial power to mount an organized anti-campaign. A multi-national corporation that might be affected by living wage policies will likely not get involved at the city level because the additional labour costs that they would incur should a living wage policy pass is insignificant however, at the provincial or federal level those additional labour cost might justify them getting involved. Another advantage to campaigning at the city level is that many of the services that are targeted are relatively immobile (Swarts & Vasi, 2011). City or city-subsidized parking lots, airports, convention centers, and hotels are some of the services that have been affected by living wage ordinances. These are businesses or services that cannot easily pick up and move to another city. The final reason for living wage campaigns to target local levels of government is due to the large amounts of capital used to encourage economic development by all levels of government. In the US, urban development funds have been used to attract businesses to cities in an effort to revitalize them and curtail the growing levels of poverty that had been occurring. In these cases, substantial public subsidies have been offered to businesses that are willing to locate in the city. However, poverty rates have steadily increased even with these subsidies (Hajnal, 1995). Although many of these urban development initiatives have been successful in revitalizing the downtowns of many cities, they have done little to reduce urban poverty throughout the city as a whole (Pollin & Luce, 1998). Living wage advocates saw these subsidies as an opportunity for better wages and, in many cases, were able to attach living wage stipulations for businesses receiving these subsidies.

Turn – A local focus is key to real world change and advocacy. - Voss[[11]](#footnote-11)

The dominant political process model of collective action neglects the importance of participatory organizing and capacity building for modern social movements. This neglect threatens to make our theories less and less relevant as the larger terrain within which social movements operate is being reconfigured. In the political process model, the state is the central actor and thus movement emergence, dynamics, and outcomes are fundamentally shaped by state action. In the 21st century configuration, the economy’s power in relation to the state and civil society has increased, while the state’s capacity to grant concessions has diminished. This, ironically, has enhanced the potential importance of participatory organizing in civil society in interactions with the state and economy. Where the new movements dramatically challenge the political process model is in their emphasis on building organizations capable of extending democratic civil society rather than relying on pre-existing mobilizing structures that are turning out protesters in order to pressure the state. Building on Payne’s distinction between organizing and mobilizing, we see the new movements as diverging from the old in their primary focus on using participatory organizing in civil society in order to enable them to interact with the state and economy, rather than the political process model’s emphasis on political opportunities. Social movement scholarship has neglected this reconfiguration of civil society perhaps because these local practices fall under the radar screen of a theory that places paramount emphasis on large protest movements. Scholars who have applied political process models to the global arena have focused on the international aspirations of local movements, but have also failed to capture the local community organizing where civil society is developed. The MST and J for J are two movements that have responded to the changing conditions in novel ways. Both illustrate the importance of community organizing and (re)building civil society. Thus, we suggest here that globalization has affected these movements not so much by providing new global opportunity structures, as many have claimed, but instead by leaving civil society as the most viable domain for mounting challenges and constructing alternatives. In each example we see activists turn to community organizing and civil society. Indeed, some of the most powerful aspects of these movements are the local democratic practices forged and the new institutions created, and not simply victories measured in terms of goals achieved or concessions won. Much like the thinking of early 20th century theorists such as Gramsci and Polanyi who theorized the emergence of civil society as a response to the growth of the state and market forces, we are theorizing the renewed important role of civil society as a response to the shift in the macro domains. We believe that it is paramount for social movements scholars to further theorize how to build organizations that help empower citizens to become active participants in the economic, political, and social domains of life.

AT – US Bias

Turn – US Bias is good on this topic – its key to access topic lit and empirics as well as ensure clash because effects of living wages are still being debated. Keddy[[12]](#footnote-12)

It is important to note that the majority of research on living wages has predominantly been done on living wages implemented in US cities. To date, there has been very little research done on living wages in the Canadian context. Living wages are a relatively new issue being debated in Canada and, as such, academic interest in the topic has not yet emerged. Additionally, with only one municipality that has implemented living wage policies, the opportunity to perform empirical research is limited. Due to the relative short period of time and small number of places where these policies have been implemented, it has only been recently that researchers have taken notice of, and been able to study the effects of living wage policies, making the available data limited. This lack of research, as well as the absence of a system of tracking and recording any relevant data, has also prevented any conclusions from being drawn as to the effects of these policies. There 11 are a few isolated case studies of cities that have implemented living wage policies but not nearly enough to be able to make broad generalizations from (Brenner, 2005; Fairris, 2005; Lester, 2011). However, these studies have shown that the policies within these case study cities have had little negative economic impact on the companies affected and the city as a whole.

Turn – US bias allows better debate because we know more about the US and its political structures, allowing us to form more in depth advocacies and engage in the merits of empirical evidence. (most transferable knowledge)

Turn – US Bias is good for semantic interpretations because the framers are from the United States, so they are more likely to use US understandings of terms in the resolution.

No impact to why US bias is bad.

AT – No Empirics Exist

You should have read the literature – there is ample empirical evidence under my interp. Maloney[[13]](#footnote-13)

There is ample empirical evidence on the effects of living wage laws overseas that can inform this discussion about the possible consequences of adopting living wage provisions in this country. Most of this analysis comes from the experiences of numerous cities in the United States that have enacted living wage ordinances over the last two decades.

Turn – There’s tension in the empirical lit under my interp, ensuring the best division of ground and clash. Lester[[14]](#footnote-14)

Overall, there is a tension in the empirical literature on living wage effects. In general, panel studies of the type applied by Neumark (2002) and Adams and Neumark (2005) which include all or a large sample of living wage cities is preferable to comparing employment before and after passage within a single city. Panel studies—with the exception of [AUTHOR]—find a negative impact on employment. On the other hand, case studies, including the detailed surveys performed by Farris 13 (2005) and others, generally find no disemployment effect and make a more convincing case for measuring outcomes among firms and workers who are covered by the living-wage.

AT – Framers Intent

1. Turn – The framers used living and not minimum wage, showing that they wanted the issues to be treated distinctly. Always err neg on this issue since I have demonstrated a distinction in the lit and that the living wage is a term of art.
2. Framer’s intent is ultimately arbitrary and irresolvable. No one here was present for the topic selection process, so we have no idea how the resolution is intended to be debated.
3. There’s no such thing as unified framer’s intent – some coaches writing the resolutions prefer policy style debates while other more traditional LD. Given competing motivations, it’s impossible to discern the intent behind any specific resolution.
4. The framers have no link to resolutional semantics because they’re just a group of debate coaches and don’t require expert knowledge in a topic field. Thus they have no legitimate claim to an accurate interpretation of the topic.

Shell Underview – Reject Other Interps

But regardless of the benefits of my interp – reject any T interp that allows their aff of (X) because

1. Limits – In their world the aff could defend any sector and combination of government implementing the living wage. My interp escapes this harm by limiting sectors through contractors and not allowing specification on the national level. Limits are key to fairness because they ensure reciprocal access to prep.
2. Advocacy Skills - Your interp ignores political realities – we couldn’t just raise the minimum to a living wage. Having debate under my interp is key to defend real world positions and work towards social change. Keddy[[15]](#footnote-15)

For many, living wages are advocated for as a step within a broader goal of an increased minimum wage. Campaigns to increase minimum wages have been occurring for far longer than the contemporary living wage campaigns. Social and anti-poverty advocates have found strong opposition and a reluctant political arena at the higher levels of government to increase minimum wages and have begun looking to lower levels of government to improve incomes of lower income households (Swarts & Vasi, 2011). As more municipalities pass living wage policies, higher wages at the low-income level will likely become more widely accepted. With this wider acceptance, the issue of raising the minimum wage could become less politically sensitive and higher levels of government may be less averse to increasing minimum wages

Advocacy skills are key to fairness because they determine our ability to create and defend positions.

Semantics First - Cards

1. Logical consistency – It doesn’t matter how good debate looks under your world if your interp can’t prove the truth of the resolution. Nebel[[16]](#footnote-16)

Let me make three caveats before defending my view. First, my view is not that pragmatic reasons are completely irrelevant to resolutional interpretation. I think, rather, that they should be lexically inferior to semantic reasons. (Think of the priority of basic liberties over equality in Rawls’s conception of justice.) Pragmatic considerations cannot justify interpretations that are ruled out on semantic grounds. If the resolution does not mean X, then it doesn’t matter how much better it would be to debate X. But if the resolution might mean either X or Y, then the topicality debate can come down to pragmatic considerations. But note that the debate between “competing interpretations” and “reasonability” is relevant here: if the resolution is truly ambiguous between X and Y, then even if X does better than Y on pragmatic grounds, the affirmative might have the right to select a reasonable but suboptimal interpretation. But this question does not, I think, affect the priority of semantic considerations.

1. Semantics are lexically prior to pragmatics – two warrants. Nebel[[17]](#footnote-17) – brackets for efficiency

One way admits that such pragmatic considerations are relevant—i.e., they are reasons to change the topic—but holds that they are outweighed by the reasons for the topicality rule. [first] It would be better if everyone debated the resolution as worded, whatever it is, than if everyone debated whatever subtle variation on the resolution they favored. Affirmatives would unfairly abuse (and have already abused) the entitlement to choose their own unpredictable adventure, and negatives would respond (and have already responded) with strategies that are designed to avoid clash—including an essentially vigilantist approach to topicality in which debaters enforce their own pet resolutions on an arbitrary, round-by-round basis. Think here of the utilitarian case for internalizing rules against lying, murder, and other intuitively wrong acts. As the great utilitarian Henry Sidgwick argued, wellbeing is maximized not by everyone doing what they think maximizes wellbeing, but rather (in general) by people sticking to the rules of common sense morality. Otherwise, people are more likely to act on mistaken utility calculations and engage in self-serving violations of useful rules, thereby undermining social practices that promote wellbeing in the long run. That is exactly what happens if we reject the topicality rule in favor of direct appeals to pragmatic considerations. Sticking to a rule that applies regardless of the topic, of the debaters’ preferred variations on the topic, and of debaters’ familiarity with the national circuit’s flavor of the week, avoids these problems. A second strategy denies that such pragmatic benefits are relevant. This strategy is more deontological. One version of this strategy appeals to the importance of consent or agreement. Suppose that you give your opponents prior notice that you’ll be affirming the September/October 2012 resolution instead of the current one. There is a sense in which your affirmation of that resolution is now predictable: your opponents know, or are in a position to know, what you will be defending. And suppose that the older resolution is conducive to better (i.e., more fair and more educational) debate. Still, it’s unfair of you to expect your opponents to follow suit. Why? Because they didn’t agree to debate that topic. They registered for a tournament whose invitation specified the current resolution, not the Sept/Oct 2012 resolution or a free-for-all. The “social contract” argument for topicality holds that accepting a tournament invitation constitutes implicit consent to debate the specified topic. This claim might be contested, depending on what constitutes implicit consent. What is less contestable is this: given that some proposition must be debated in each round and that the tournament has specified a resolution, no one can reasonably reject a principle that requires everyone to debate the announced resolution as worded. This appeals to Scanlon’s contractualism. Someone who wishes to debate only the announced resolution has a strong claim against changing the topic, and no one has a stronger claim against debating the announced resolution (ignoring, for now, some possible exceptions to be discussed in the next subsection). So it is unfair to expect your opponent to debate anything other than the announced resolution. This unfairness is a constraint on the pursuit of education or other goods: it wrongs and is unjustifiable to your opponent.

1. No brightline when we prioritize pragmatics – your world creates arbitrary rules. Nebel[[18]](#footnote-18)

Here is a third kind of response to the view that we should directly appeal to pragmatic considerations when evaluating topicality. This view justifies debating propositions that are completely irrelevant to the resolution but are much better to debate. Once you say that pragmatic benefits can justify debating a proposition that isn’t really what the resolution means, or that the resolution means whatever it would be best for it to mean, there is no principled way of requiring any particular threshold of similarity in order to be an eligible interpretation of the resolution. This means that the pragmatic approach justifies affirmatives that have nothing to do with the resolution. Of course some see no problem with nontopical affirmatives whose impacts outweigh the reasons to debate the resolution. But suppose you want a principled response to such strategies. You have one if you take seriously the idea that the debate should be about the resolution, and the idea that the proposition expressed by the resolution is independent of what proposition would be best to debate. Without a commitment to debating the proposition that the resolution actually means, I don’t think there is a principled response to such strategies, as I discuss below.

Semantics First - Analytics

1. Semantic justifications have logical priority. For example the semantic approach would say the statement “bachelors are married” is false. But a pragmatic approach could say “I’ll give you a million dollars if bachelors are married.” Even though you may want the million dollars, all the pragmatic approach offers you are a reasons to want the interpretation to be true, not an actual reason for it to be true.
2. Semantics control the internal link into topic literature because they frame how authors understand topical discussion. Thus a pre-requisite for any ground is the correct semantical interpretation.
3. Semantics prevent frivolous theory debate because we can always argue about marginal benefits of one interpretation, but there is only one true way to interpret the meaning of the resolution.
4. Semantics control the internal link into predictability. We prepare to debate the topic rather than for each pragmatic interpretation preferred on an arbitrary basis. Thus even if there is better ground under your interp, that doesn’t matter because no one will be prepared to debate it.
5. Topicality is a question of jurisdiction – what arguments count as offensive under the resolution. Semantics outweigh because they are the only type of argument that address the true scope of the topic, pragmatics only speak to how we arbitrarily limit it further.
6. Pragmatic debates are ultimately irresolvable and unverifiable, there’s no metric to determine how much lit/ground is lost under any interp. Prefer semantics because we can use definitions, metrics like how many times an article has been cited, and credentials to move towards an objectively true understanding of the topic.

Semantics Frontlines

1. The res isn’t written in a debate specific context, but even if your right you don’t meet the threshold to prove its specific to the activity. Nebel[[19]](#footnote-19)

But even if Kupferbreg is right that debate is its own context, it does not follow that conduciveness to good debate determines what the resolution means. Kupferbreg appeals to the consensus of linguists that words can be ambiguous. That is obvious. But linguists require evidence of ambiguity before they accept that a word is ambiguous. That is why they posit empirical tests of ambiguity (Zwicky and Sadock 1975). Many linguists and philosophers of language are guided by the maxim, “Avoid multiplying senses beyond necessity.” A debater appealing to the technical context of debate would need empirical evidence that the expression has a debate-specific, technical meaning. Without this evidence, we should assume that the words in the resolution are used in their ordinary senses (or, in certain obvious cases, in the technical sense of some academic field). Moreover, it is unlikely that NSDA LD topic committee would use words in unconventional ways that could only be understood by application of debatespecific standards—especially standards that are used by a tiny minority of LD debaters, in the grand scheme of things.13 I don’t want to put too much weight on what the topic committee thinks, because I have no idea what they think, and different members probably think different things about resolutional interpretation. My point is just that the ambiguity hypothesis is, without much further evidence, just a hypothesis, and that it is prima facie unlikely that resolutions are written not in ordinary English but rather in some technical dialect of English which the vast majority of debaters and coaches (i.e., those who primarily compete on local circuits) do not speak.

AT - Ground

1. You should have read the literature – there is ample empirical evidence under my interp. Maloney[[20]](#footnote-20)

There is ample empirical evidence on the effects of living wage laws overseas that can inform this discussion about the possible consequences of adopting living wage provisions in this country. Most of this analysis comes from the experiences of numerous cities in the United States that have enacted living wage ordinances over the last two decades.

1. Turn – There’s tension in the empirical lit under my interp, ensuring the best division of ground and clash. Lester[[21]](#footnote-21)

Overall, there is a tension in the empirical literature on living wage effects. In general, panel studies of the type applied by Neumark (2002) and Adams and Neumark (2005) which include all or a large sample of living wage cities is preferable to comparing employment before and after passage within a single city. Panel studies—with the exception of [AUTHOR]—find a negative impact on employment. On the other hand, case studies, including the detailed surveys performed by Farris 13 (2005) and others, generally find no disemployment effect and make a more convincing case for measuring outcomes among firms and workers who are covered by the living-wage.

1. Field context turns ground because it determines how the topic lit addresses the resolution. And ground from field context outweighs other ground because its most predictable, we prepare based on arguments in the lit not based on arbitrary ways to interpret the resolution.
2. Turn – Focusing on the minimum wage destroys ground because the literature has already reached empirical consensus after years of study, preventing clash on the topic.
3. This standard is making an empirical claim without an empirical warrant – there’s no reason to believe a ground deficit under my interp absent evidence from the literature.

AT - Predictability

1. Turn – My interpretation is by far the most common. - Keddy[[22]](#footnote-22)

Living wages can be implemented wherever there is a governing structure that has the authority to prescribe minimum wage restrictions and can enforce compliance of the policies. Technically, in Canada, the provinces could implement living wage policies by increasing the minimum wage however, this has not yet occurred. There have been some cases where living wage policies have been implemented in universities and public school boards, as well as some airport authorities in the United States. However, the most common type of living wage is a policy implemented by municipalities that covers workers who work either directly or indirectly for the city. Living wage advocates also encourage private companies to voluntarily implement a living wage policy.

And real world implementation controls the strongest link into predictability because it’s the spark for discussion in the topic lit and provides the basis for empirical data.

1. Turn – Field context controls the internal link into predictability – if my interp is most accurate its most predictable. Since predictability relies on claims about the topic literature, proving that my interpretation is the dominant one highjacks your link at the highest layer.
2. Turn – Your interp leads to unpredictable affs because there is huge variance on minimum wage policy. You can defend a wage for any sector or government, while my interp is comparatively limited by focusing on contractors and firms funded by the government.

AT – Advocacy Skills/real world

Analytics

1. No uniqueness to national policy education – past topics have always had a national focus so we’ve gained the relevant skills of policy debate on the macro level.
2. Turn – Local focus is better because skills developed around local policies are transferable outside of the round. We won’t end up as policy makers, but will always care about issues that immediately affect us.

Cards

1. Turn – Your interp ignores political realities – the only way to get the benefits of a minimum wage debate is to first engage locally. Keddy[[23]](#footnote-23)

For many, living wages are advocated for as a step within a broader goal of an increased minimum wage. Campaigns to increase minimum wages have been occurring for far longer than the contemporary living wage campaigns. Social and anti-poverty advocates have found strong opposition and a reluctant political arena at the higher levels of government to increase minimum wages and have begun looking to lower levels of government to improve incomes of lower income households (Swarts & Vasi, 2011). As more municipalities pass living wage policies, higher wages at the low-income level will likely become more widely accepted. With this wider acceptance, the issue of raising the minimum wage could become less politically sensitive and higher levels of government may be less averse to increasing minimum wages

1. Turn – a variety of real world benefits to municipal focus including advocacy skills, relevance of the problem,etc Keddy[[24]](#footnote-24)

From the start of the contemporary living wage movement, advocates and organizers focussed their efforts at the local level for a number of reasons. First, poverty and low-wage employment are more severe and more visible at the municipal level (Martin, 2001; Pollin & Luce, 1998). Poverty is far more prevalent in cities than it is in suburban and rural areas. Due to this concentration, coupled with the downloading of services by higher levels of governments to municipalities in recent decades, social services have become largely concentrated and administered at the local level. This has also resulted in a concentration of poverty advocates within cities. Since poverty is often highly visible in cities, gaining public support for measures that are seen to be poverty reduction strategies is perhaps easier. Second, at the local level it is much easier to mobilize low wage workers and get them and other supporters to city council hearings as opposed to provincial or federal legislatures (Luce, 2004, 2012). Often it is a simple matter of transportation; low wage workers within a city can easily get to their City Hall while getting to a provincial or federal legislature can be costly and time consuming. The smaller scale of the city also makes door-to-door canvassing much easier for campaign organizers, enabling them to inform and mobilize a proportionately larger number of people than at the provincial or federal level. The greater abundance of “people power” at the local level has a better chance of combatting the power of money that any organized opposition can generate to counter the campaign (Luce, 2012). At higher levels of government, money plays a more prominent role. Informing the public at these levels is more costly because of the wider audience that needs to be reached, requiring a greater advertising budget (Luce, 2012). In addition, campaigns at these higher levels of government are likely to draw more attention from opponents that have the financial power to mount an organized anti-campaign. A multi-national corporation that might be affected by living wage policies will likely not get involved at the city level because the additional labour costs that they would incur should a living wage policy pass is insignificant however, at the provincial or federal level those additional labour cost might justify them getting involved. Another advantage to campaigning at the city level is that many of the services that are targeted are relatively immobile (Swarts & Vasi, 2011). City or city-subsidized parking lots, airports, convention centers, and hotels are some of the services that have been affected by living wage ordinances. These are businesses or services that cannot easily pick up and move to another city. The final reason for living wage campaigns to target local levels of government is due to the large amounts of capital used to encourage economic development by all levels of government. In the US, urban development funds have been used to attract businesses to cities in an effort to revitalize them and curtail the growing levels of poverty that had been occurring. In these cases, substantial public subsidies have been offered to businesses that are willing to locate in the city. However, poverty rates have steadily increased even with these subsidies (Hajnal, 1995). Although many of these urban development initiatives have been successful in revitalizing the downtowns of many cities, they have done little to reduce urban poverty throughout the city as a whole (Pollin & Luce, 1998). Living wage advocates saw these subsidies as an opportunity for better wages and, in many cases, were able to attach living wage stipulations for businesses receiving these subsidies.

Turn – A local focus is key to real world change and advocacy. - Voss[[25]](#footnote-25)

The dominant political process model of collective action neglects the importance of participatory organizing and capacity building for modern social movements. This neglect threatens to make our theories less and less relevant as the larger terrain within which social movements operate is being reconfigured. In the political process model, the state is the central actor and thus movement emergence, dynamics, and outcomes are fundamentally shaped by state action. In the 21st century configuration, the economy’s power in relation to the state and civil society has increased, while the state’s capacity to grant concessions has diminished. This, ironically, has enhanced the potential importance of participatory organizing in civil society in interactions with the state and economy. Where the new movements dramatically challenge the political process model is in their emphasis on building organizations capable of extending democratic civil society rather than relying on pre-existing mobilizing structures that are turning out protesters in order to pressure the state. Building on Payne’s distinction between organizing and mobilizing, we see the new movements as diverging from the old in their primary focus on using participatory organizing in civil society in order to enable them to interact with the state and economy, rather than the political process model’s emphasis on political opportunities. Social movement scholarship has neglected this reconfiguration of civil society perhaps because these local practices fall under the radar screen of a theory that places paramount emphasis on large protest movements. Scholars who have applied political process models to the global arena have focused on the international aspirations of local movements, but have also failed to capture the local community organizing where civil society is developed. The MST and J for J are two movements that have responded to the changing conditions in novel ways. Both illustrate the importance of community organizing and (re)building civil society. Thus, we suggest here that globalization has affected these movements not so much by providing new global opportunity structures, as many have claimed, but instead by leaving civil society as the most viable domain for mounting challenges and constructing alternatives. In each example we see activists turn to community organizing and civil society. Indeed, some of the most powerful aspects of these movements are the local democratic practices forged and the new institutions created, and not simply victories measured in terms of goals achieved or concessions won. Much like the thinking of early 20th century theorists such as Gramsci and Polanyi who theorized the emergence of civil society as a response to the growth of the state and market forces, we are theorizing the renewed important role of civil society as a response to the shift in the macro domains. We believe that it is paramount for social movements scholars to further theorize how to build organizations that help empower citizens to become active participants in the economic, political, and social domains of life.

AT - Limits

1. Turn – In their world the aff could defend any sector and combination of government implementing the living wage. My interp escapes this harm by limiting sectors through contractors and not allowing specification on the national level. Limits are key to fairness because they ensure reciprocal access to prep.
2. Turn – My interp forms the most predictable limits – its how living wages have been implemented. - Keddy[[26]](#footnote-26)

Living wages can be implemented wherever there is a governing structure that has the authority to prescribe minimum wage restrictions and can enforce compliance of the policies. Technically, in Canada, the provinces could implement living wage policies by increasing the minimum wage however, this has not yet occurred. There have been some cases where living wage policies have been implemented in universities and public school boards, as well as some airport authorities in the United States. However, the most common type of living wage is a policy implemented by municipalities that covers workers who work either directly or indirectly for the city. Living wage advocates also encourage private companies to voluntarily implement a living wage policy.

Predictability is a side constraint on limits because it doesn’t matter how well limited an interp is if debaters have no reason to expect those limits when going into the round.

1. Alt interps check back – things like Nebel T, shells regulating which countries we can spec, etc ensure that my interp is sufficiently limited.

Weighing Between FC links

Comparative comes first

1. Comparison accounts for distinctions in the literature and ensures that authors aren’t conflating distinct policies.
2. Comparison requires reading a broad range of topic literature, and thus proves that my interp is reflective of the topic as a whole.
3. Comparative definitions account for new developments in the literature, which means even if another definition exists mine shows how its outdated.

Support from a variety of leading scholars comes first under field context

1. Accounts for biases of specific authors, my interp has consensus to prove it’s an objective account of the literature.
2. These authors were selected by a panel of policy makers, ensuring precision in their understanding of the topic.

Support from labor activists outweighs links to field context

1. It means that my interp accounts for real world implementation. Even if there are other possible meanings, mine is used most commonly.
2. It shows that my interp is static over ten years, which means I account for developments in the lit and ensure that its consistent.

CRA Good

CRA is creidible – they are a leading consulting firm for policy makers. CRA.com[[27]](#footnote-27)

Charles River Associates is a leading global consulting firm that offers economic, financial, and strategic expertise to major law firms, corporations, accounting firms, and governments around the world. With proven skills in complex cases and exceptional strength in analytics, CRA consultants have provided astute guidance to clients in thousands of successful engagements. We offer litigation and regulatory support, business strategy and planning, market and demand forecasting, policy analysis, and risk management consulting. Our success stems from the outstanding capabilities of our consultants, many of whom are recognized as experts in their respective fields; our close relationships with a select group of respected academic and industry experts; and from a corporate philosophy that stresses interdisciplinary collaboration and responsive service.

Semantics & Reasonability

Semantics offense precludes reasonability because

1. Reasonability assumes that your advocacy is a topical and thus reasonable to advocate. Semantics determines whether or not your case falls within the lit – and thus is a prior question to reasonability.
2. Advocacies that ignore semantics are on face unreasonable. You open the door to read any aff so long as there is reasonable ground on it, which causes a race to the bottom and prevents substantive clash.
3. Even if we look to reasonability prefer a brightline of field context because a) it’s the only accurate litmus test to see if your advocacy is based in the literature and b) avoids judge intervention because we can see whether or not your interp is accurate, while other brightlines are based on unverifiable claims of ground, knowledge of the advocacy, etc.

Resolvability First

1. Irresolvable rounds cause judge intervention because there’s no objective way to evaluate the flow. Intervention outweighs other forms of unfairness because it’s the only harm that debaters can’t control and nullifies the quality of substantive arguments that we have access to.
2. It’s the most severe impact. We can always learn more about the lit after the round via reading, but our education is uniquely harmed by perpetuating false information in the community. And this also devalues debate education, we can’t have transferable skillsets if the information we exchange in debate isn’t grounded in the real world.

Author Indicts

Bhattacharjee and Roy

Anannya Bhattacharjee Garment and Allied Workers Union, India Ashim Roy New Trade Union Initiative, India Asia Floor Wage and global industrial collective bargaining

1. Your author is talking about a distinct policy, specifically the AFW talks about a

The AFW is a practical implementation of the concept of a “minimum living wage”

1. Turn – Your authors are biased towards the campaigns in Asia, they have an incentive to use rhetoric of Living Wage to make their movement look better and ignore academic arguments.
2. No internal link into field context – at best one movement operates under your interpretation but you don’t show that the academic literature cares about it.
3. Turn – your interp ignores field context because there isn’t a minimum living wage implemented in the status quo, which means that a) it ignores how academia has responded to past implementation b) ignores policy implementation of the living wage because your only talking about academic speculation instead of real world arguments.

Pollin

By Robert Pollin New Labor Forum 16(2): 103–107, Spring 2007 Copyright © Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY ISSN: 1095-7960/07 print DOI:10.1080/10957960701279306 ECONOMIC PROSPECTS Making the Federal Minimum Wage a Living Wage

1. Turn - Your interp is extremely outdated, its based on a 1997 view of the Living wage by Lawrence Glickman. Means that I am always most accurate because I reflect current developments in the topic.
2. Your author isn’t using living wage in the context of the resolution. Pollin is only talking about what the national cost of living would be, not talking about the living wage in the context of wage floor policy.
3. Even a $10.00 federal minimum in 2013 will not be adequate for most of the country. Local communities and states will need to continue setting their own living wage norms. But the idea of providing raises in line with average productivity and inflation, after taking account of employment effects, should at least move the country closer to what voters have demonstrated they support, what the economy can readily absorb, and what low-wage workers deserve.

Pollin card

Lawrence Glickman’s 1997 book A Living Wage: American Workers and the Making of Consumer Society provides a good working definition of the term living wage: “It is a wage level that offers workers the ability to support families to maintain self respect and to have both the means and the leisure to participate in the civic life of the nation” (p. 66). How can we translate Glickman’s definition into dollars and cents, as we obviously must if living wages are to operate as a workable policy tool? When the modern living wage movement began in the mid-1990s, the approach that organizers took was to tie the living wage standard to the federal government’s official poverty line. They set the living wage at least high enough to enable a full-time worker to maintain his or her family above the official poverty line. But we confront an immediate problem with this approach, which is that the poverty line in the United States is seriously deficient. This is because it is calculated using an outdated approach which does not reflect the actual costs of providing for basic necessities other than food, including housing, health care, and child care. The poverty benchmarks also take no account of regional differences in the cost of living. As an average for the country, it is widely recognized among researchers that the official poverty benchmark for the country is probably about 40 to 50 percent too low. In high-cost urban areas such as Boston or Los Angeles, that figure should rise by roughly an additional 25 percent. If we work with a revised poverty threshold at 140 percent of the official level, a national living wage standard in 2009 tied to such a poverty line would be about $11.50 an hour for a single mother with two children, working fulltime, with no vacation and no health care. In high cost areas, the figure would rise to about $14.40 an hour. But poverty thresholds need not be the only benchmark for defining a living wage. Glickman’s definition certainly suggests a more generous approach. As one outgrowth of the living wage movement, researchers have recently developed estimates of what they term “basic budget” or “basic needs” standards for communities throughout the country. These figures provide what researchers at the Economic Policy Institute call a “realistic picture of how much income it takes for a safe and decent standard of living.” Drawing from the Economic Policy Institute’s basic budget estimates, a living wage standard in 2009 for the same single mother with two children, working fulltime, would be about $17.50 an hour in Lincoln, Nebraska, and $31.60 in Boston.

ILO General

International Journal of Labour Research 2012 Vol. 4 Issue 1 Social justice and growth: The role of the minimum wage

1. Turn – ILO is biased towards looking at issues on a global perspective, means that they are likely to use the living wage to further their own agenda instead of how academics use it.
2. Turn- Their living wage conception is dated – from a convention charter in 1919 which means that it doesn’t account for wage floor evolution and current discussion.
3. The ILO summary is about the minimum not living wage, thus it’s biased towards their interp and doesn’t account for different policies.

Guzi

PV’s author, writes about international living wage calc

1. Concedes my interp – in the card Guzi admits that municipalities have been implementing the living wage.
2. Guzi doesn’t conflict with my interp, the author only says what the level of the living wage should be and not whether it applies to a subset of workers. Prefer my interp on precision, as it most accurately defines the living wage instead of leaving its scope ambiguous.
3. Guzi’s cites for his work come from ILO interps of the living wage, which have two distinct disadvantages
4. ILO is biased towards looking at issues on a global perspective, means that they are likely to use the living wage to further their own agenda instead of how academics use it.
5. - Their living wage conception is dated – from a convention charter in 1919 which means that it doesn’t account for wage floor evolution and current discussion.

Zachofsky

Zachofsky 04 Zachofsky, Rex (Hofstra University School of Law). "An International Minimum Wage: Can a Historical Solution Solve a Modern Day Problem?" Journal of International Business and Law: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 11, 2004 AJ

1. No link to field context – his article discusses the fringe issue in the lit of an international minimum wage, and thus doesn’t account for the general understanding of the topic.
2. Turn – your interp is less realistic because it doesn’t account for past implementation. Even if the living wage could be extended, prefer my interp because its occurring in the squo. This has the benefit of a) ground because it ensures empirics and clash exists and b) precision because it dictates how both policy makers and academics understand the res.
3. Turn – Key semantical disad to your interp is that an international minimum wage could never affirm. The res requires that just governments require employers to pay a living wage, but Zachofsky notes that the UN or other non governmental structures would enforce the plan. Thus even if you have some basis in the lit you can never access the res’ meaning.

ILO Background

Guzi 13 Martin Guzi – WageIndicator Foundation - Masaryk University – Brno - Czech Republic. Paulien Osse – WageIndicator Foundation – Amsterdam – The Netherlands. “Estimating Living Wage Globally - 65 countries.” European Conference on Living wages – November 2013, Berlin. WageIndicator Foundation (aims for transparency of the labour market by sharing and comparing wage data and labour conditions information) AJ

. In 1919 the International Labor Organization (ILO) has defined a living wage as a basic human right under their conventions and recommendations to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 23 (ILO, 2008). In 1948 the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights officially recognized the need for workers to receive a living wage. There was never a consensus on how to define a living wage but in the recent decades governments, municipalities, international and local trade unions, and labor research institutes developed their own definitions and measurement methods of a living wage. Debates have appeared in different fora about how best to calculate this standard in a given context. Anker (2011) is the most comprehensive review on how the living wage has been described, defined and measured around the world. In many countries, the concept of living wage is based on a number of different definitions. Different methodological approaches make it difficult to produce a globally comparable living wage. Moreover, the estimation of living wage hinges on the availability of timely information about the cost of living, which is seldom available in developing countries. Anker (2011) argues that greater clarity with regards to the definition and measurement of living wage is a prerequisite for the widespread consideration of living wages and employee needs, by companies, unions and governments.

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